

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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AG CASH RENTS

Maryland cropland cash rent increased \$0.70 per acre but was \$0.50 per acre less than 2001. U.S. cash rents paid to landlords for agricultural real estate were mixed during the 2003 crop year. Cropland cash rents paid in 2003 increased 2 percent from a year earlier, advancing to \$73.00 per acre, compared with a revised \$71.60 per acre for 2002. However, pasture cash rents dropped 2 percent, from \$9.20 per acre in 2002 to \$9.00 per acre in 2003. The increase in cropland rental rates was modest, reflecting producers' attitudes toward the combination of slightly reduced production levels of major U.S. crops in 2002 and higher, though still historically low, commodity prices. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions, which together account for nearly one half of cash rented cropland acreage, both increased 2 percent from 2002. Cropland cash rents increased \$2.00 per acre, to \$110.00, in the Corn Belt and \$1.00 per acre, to \$48.00, in the Northern Plains. Over all, cropland rental rates increased in 8 of the 10 regions, while rental rates in the Southeast region fell 2 percent to \$44.00 per acre. Rental rates in the Pacific region remained unchanged at \$180.00 per acre.

The major corn and soybean producing States of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa experienced increases ranging from 1 to 2 percent for cropland cash rents. Of the 3 States, Illinois had the highest cash rent, at \$123.00 per acre, but experienced the

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smallest rental increase from 2002 of \$1.00 per acre. Iowa cropland rents increased \$2.00 per acre, to \$122.00. Three of the four states in the Northern Plains region showed increases in cropland cash rents, led by South Dakota's \$3.00 per acre increase in non-irrigated cropland. Kansas cropland rents remained unchanged at \$39.00 per acre. Pasture cash rents reflected the drought-reduced forage production of pastures and range lands in major livestock-grazing States. Shifts in cash rented acreages from higher valued regions to lower valued regions also contributed to lower U.S. pasture cash rents, despite per acre increases in 5 of the 10 regions and no change in 2 of the remaining 5 regions. Pasture cash rents fell in the Delta, Mountain, and Pacific regions, and were unchanged in the Corn Belt and Appalachian regions. Wisconsin continued to lead the Nation with the highest pasture rent, at \$36.00 per acre, despite relatively weak milk prices. Sharp decreases in many areas of the Mountain region offset increases in parts of the Northern and Southern Plains.

Cropland Rented For Cash: Average Cash Rent Per Acre, Selected States 1999-2003

State	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<i>Dollars</i>					
Delaware	56.00	56.20	57.50	56.30	57.00
Maryland	54.20	54.20	55.50	55.50	55.50
New Jersey	53.10	51.00	47.00	47.00 ¹	47.00
New York	31.00	32.00	33.00	35.00	37.00
Pennsylvania	41.00	40.00	42.00	40.00	41.00
Virginia	35.70	36.50	36.50	36.00	36.50
West Virginia	28.00	26.00	26.00	27.00	28.00

¹Revised

CHICKENS & EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 55 million eggs during July 2003, of which 52 million were table eggs and 3 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 68 percent. The average number of layers on hand during July 2003 was 2,608,000. On August 1, 2003, none of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 27.5 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.34 billion during July 2003, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2003 averaged 332 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,214 eggs, up 1 percent from July 2002.

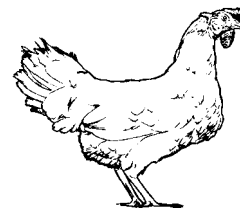
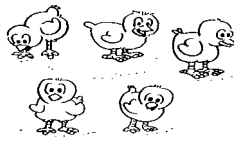
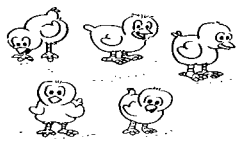
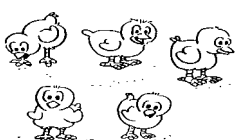
Egg type chicks hatched during July totaled 35.6 million, up slightly from July 2002. Eggs in incubators totaled 30.7 million on August 1, 2003, down 6 percent from a year ago.

The July 2003 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 777 million, was down 1 percent from July of the previous year. There were 641 million eggs in incubators on August 1, 2003, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 7.1 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during July 2003, up 7 percent from July 2002.

Quick Fact

Iowa was the leading egg producing state in 2002, producing 9.9 billion eggs. That is 825 million dozen, or enough eggs to make about 3 billion omelets.

Eggs and Layers: July 2002 and 2003			
Item	2002	2003	2003/2002
Eggs Produced During July	<i>Million</i>		<i>Percent</i>
U.S.	7,347	7,343	100
Maryland	75	55	73
Layers, Average Number During July	<i>Thousand</i>		
U.S.	335,498	331,702	99
Maryland	3,139	2,608	83
Eggs / 100 Layers During July	<i>Number</i>		
U.S.	2,190	2,214	101
Maryland	2,389	2,109	88



FARM LABOR

There were 1,273,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 6-12, 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 320,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.88 per hour during the July 2003 reference week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.18

per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.62 per hour compared with \$8.38 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.28 per hour, was up 26 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, unchanged from a year ago.

FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE RATES, UNITED STATES, JULY 06-12, 2003, WITH COMPARISON ¹

FARM EMPLOYMENT	July 07-13, 2002	April 06-12, 2003	July 06-12, 2003
<i>Thousand</i>			
Hired Workers	1,006	781	953
150 Days or More	723	619	678
149 Days or Less	283	162	275
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	256	157	320
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,262	938	1,273
<i>Hours Per Week</i>			
Hours Worked Hired	40.0	40.1	40.0
<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>			
Wage Rates for			
All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	8.57	9.16	8.88
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	8.02	8.49	8.28
Field	7.90	8.40	8.18
Livestock	8.38	8.75	8.62

¹ Excludes AK.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.



MARYLAND COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES AND MELONS

Commercial Vegetable and Melon Harvested Acres, by Region in Maryland, 2001-2002								
Crop	West of Chesapeake Bay		Northern Eastern Shore		Southern Eastern Shore		State ¹	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Fresh Market Vegetables	<i>Acres</i>							
Beans, Lima	130	134	158	163	22	23	310	320
Beans, Snap	1,320	1,260	410	391	470	449	2,200	2,100
Cantaloups	535	535	658	658	407	407	1,600	1,600
Cauliflower	85	85	11	11	4	4	100	100
Corn, Sweet	6,175	5,947	3,105	2,993	1,621	1,560	10,900	10,500
Cucumbers	469	469	260	260	471	471	1,200	1,200
Greens, Other	1,628	1,538	96	91	75	71	1,800	1,700
Kale	625	625	12	12	13	13	650	650
Peas, Green	131	127	65	62	84	81	280	270
Pumpkins	1,139	1,063	283	264	78	73	1,500	1,400
Squash	1,060	1,060	105	105	35	35	1,200	1,200
Strawberries	539	531	110	109	91	90	740	730
Tomatoes	566	595	475	500	859	905	1,900	2,000
Turnips	116	122	38	40	36	38	190	200
Watermelons	430	443	665	686	2,005	2,071	3,100	3,200
Other Vegetables ²	1,586	1,661	1,250	1,310	314	329	3,150	3,300
Fresh Market Total	16,534	16,197	7,701	7,655	6,585	6,618	30,820	30,470
Processing Vegetables ³								
Processing Total	2,358	2,380	6,744	7,000	4,498	4,620	13,600	14,000

¹ Total may not add due to rounding.

² Other Fresh Market Vegetables include: asparagus, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, eggplant, hot peppers, lettuce, okra, onions, spinach, sweet peppers, and sweet potatoes.

³ Processing Vegetables include: carrots, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, hot peppers, lima beans, snap beans, spinach, squash, sweet corn, sweet peppers, and tomatoes.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT NORMAN BENNETT, STATE STATISTICIAN AT (410) 841- 5740
E:mail :nass-md@nass.usda.gov